

# In The News...

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## Coalinga State Hospital

148 West Elm Avenue

Coalinga, CA 93210



# Coalinga State Hospital Newsletter

## Construction: From A Consumer Point of View

By: Tom Voss, Executive Director

The amount of work going on at this site is astonishing! While touring the construction site last week we thought about what this must look like from someone passing by on Jayne Avenue or viewing it from one of the web-cam's. From those vantage points it's difficult to see all of the work that's going on out there.

Only a couple of hundred yards away from Jayne Avenue there is a flurry of activity. There are graders, trenchers, water-trucks, pick-ups, earthmovers, and a bevy of other machines moving at a rapid clip in virtually every direction. There are hundreds of construction workers digging, fabricating reinforcement bar footings, moving materials from one point to another, pouring concrete footings, connecting water, sewer, and power pipes, welding, surveying, and laying out the foot prints for the various buildings. Standing to the side on one of the vehicle pads looking down on to the site the activity closely resembles that of a colony of ants.

Once on the ground level and talking with the workers one quickly learns that the age-old advice to "never watch your butcher make sausage because you may not want to eat it" clearly does not apply in this case. All the activity, while appearing on the surface to be a state of mass confusion, is actually a highly thought out sequence of events that integrates task and resources to a specific goal. Each goal must be completed as planned in order to begin the next event.

After visiting the site and talking with the workers one begins to develop a greater appreciation and respect for those hundreds of people that have brought the project to



*Visiting the construction site.*

this point. Moreover, one is reassured that through their diligence, professionalism, and skill we will be presented with a facility that will serve the needs of the patients, employees, and community of California for years to come.

## Why Move to Coalinga?

By: Ben McLain, Hospital Administrator

I frequently get asked questions about living in Coalinga. My wife and I moved here in October of 2002, purchasing a new tract home locally for a very reasonable price. We have also invested in another home that is a rental property. In fact, I think one of the primary attractions for living and investing in a home in Coalinga is the fact that housing is very affordable. This will give you an idea of what you can get on the market right now in a local new housing tract: A brand new 3 bedroom, 2 bath house, 1320 square ft, tile counters, vaulted ceiling, plant shelves, finished garage, with upgraded roof tile is selling for \$125,950.



*Coalinga Clock Tower*

All of the employees that presently work at Coalinga State Hospital live locally. Coalinga offers the basic

businesses, services and stores. For a true shopping mall experience, you will have to travel to Hanford (45 min), Fresno (70 min) or over to the coast (Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach areas) that is about a 1½ hour drive.

Coalinga is located in Pleasant Valley, with views of the coastal mountains, surrounded by hills and ranch/agricultural land. It is a small community centered city with a population of 15,000. This city is however, very progressive and growing. The pace of life is slow and one of the benefits of small-town living is that there are no traffic or parking problems.

The city government is very community oriented and sensitive to the needs and desires of the citizens. Their efforts are geared towards improving the city and the services that are offered locally. There is a sense of volunteerism and involvement by local people and businesses. People are friendly here and you can't go downtown without running into someone that you know. Given the choice, would I do it again? Yes, in a heartbeat (but I still go to Morro Bay for my fish and chips)!

# Vacancies with Coalinga State Hospital

By: Gary Martinez, Employment Analyst

When applying for a job with Coalinga State Hospital, applicants must already have eligibility for that particular vacancy whether it is from a certification list, as a lateral transfer, or applying for reinstatement. Listed are a few places to look for vacancies with Coalinga State Hospital and/or the State of California:

- The Internet is a great tool for looking for vacant positions. The State of California, Department of Mental Health's website is: <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/>. We offer a listing of vacancies with Coalinga State Hospital as well as all of our hospitals.
- The State Personnel Board offers a listing of all State vacancies. The web site: <http://www.spb.ca.gov/>, is a good starting point for finding vacant positions, exam bulletins, job specifications and pay for each classification, and instructions on how to get a state job. If you don't have Internet access, contact your public library to find out the location of the nearest public access to an Internet terminal.
- Visit the local Employment Development Department (EDD) office to review the posted listing of vacant positions with the State of California.
- Many state agencies have a listing of job vacancies and current exam bulletins in the lobby area. For example, Coalinga State Hospital has an Employment Unit at 148 W. Elm Ave. You can walk in and receive information on how to apply for a job, what are the current vacancies, and our most current exam bulletins.

You will be notified if you are selected to interview for the vacant position. Prepare for the interview by reviewing the job description, and job specifications. Arrive a few minutes early so you are not in a hurry and so you can relax a little before going into your interview.

Don't be discouraged if you don't get the job after the first interview. Many current state employees interviewed many times before landing their first state job.

If you have any additional questions, please call Gary Martinez at (559) 935-4309.

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Completion of the "Employment Opportunities" form or a Std. 678 State application is not a guarantee of future State employment.

# Can We Talk???

By: Cheryl McDonell, Personnel Officer

Is your organization looking for a fun and exciting guest speaker at your next meeting? Want to learn more about Coalinga State Hospital?

We'd love to address your group! We have speakers on a variety of subjects including but not limited to: purchasing/seller's guidelines, Employment Opportunities, Hiring Interviews, Level of Care, and construction activities just to name a few.

Interested? Contact us at (559) 935-4305 to schedule a presentation. We look forward to hearing from you!



*Coalinga High School*

## Entry Level Job Opportunities

By: George Watanabe, Hospital General Services Administrator II

General Services has many entry-level non-clinical jobs. Coming up in the next two years are:

- ✦ Laundry Worker
- ✦ Stock Clerk
- ✦ Janitor
- ✦ Telephone Operator
- ✦ Warehouse Worker
- ✦ Office Assistant (Typing)



These positions require limited prior work experience. For more information, call George Watanabe at (559) 935-4310.



*Frame Park*



*Coalinga City Hall*

# Community Workshops

By: Uriel Hansen, Staff Services Analyst

Learn how to navigate the civil service system and develop your job search skills this spring and summer here with the technical experts from Coalinga State Hospital's Examination Services Unit.

The following community workshops will be available on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in our Conference Room:

✦ **HOW TO GET A STATE JOB, READ AN EXAM BULLETIN AND COMPLETE A STATE APPLICATION**

Thursday – April 10, 2003

✦ **HOW TO PREPARE A RESUME**

Thursday – May 8, 2003

✦ **HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN INTERVIEW**

Thursday – June 12, 2003

✦ **WHAT IS 'CAREER PLANNING' AND HOW DO I USE IT?**

Thursday – July 10, 2003



**NO PREREGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!**

We look forward to providing this public service to you and anticipate seeing you in class! If you have questions or would like more information please call (559) 935-4305.



*Coalinga Community Swim Complex*

## Become a State Employee

By: Mae Johnson, Executive Secretary

Many people think this is an unreachable goal. I'm here to tell you differently. If I can do it, you can too; and it's worth it.

Six years ago I was an unemployed, divorced housewife. I was concerned about my future when a friend suggested I go to work for the State. I will never forget that advice because it changed my life forever. Determination, persistence, and hard work have helped me promote within State service.

In July 2002, I accepted the position of Executive Secretary with the new Coalinga State Hospital. My career has only begun. We have so many job opportunities available to our community. Why don't you come by our Employment Unit at 148 West Elm Avenue in Coalinga or call us at (559) 935-4305 to see what we have for you?

# The Best Career... The Best Choice...

By: Maureen Mahoney, Coordinator of Nursing Services

Greetings from Coalinga State Hospital. Construction continues at a steady pace. Many Nursing career opportunities and options will exist for qualified Psychiatric Technicians and Registered Nurses. Clinical opportunities will also be available for Psychiatric Social Workers, Psychologists, Rehabilitation Therapists (Recreation) and (Occupational), and Dietitians. Clinical and Nursing staff will be hired in phases, particularly through 2005.

Why Coalinga State Hospital?

- Upward mobility career path options.
- Stable supportive team environment.
- Competitive salaries and State benefits.
- Excellent learning opportunities.
- Affordable housing in a community setting.
- State of the art treatment programs in a state of the art new facility.
- Interdisciplinary treatment team concept.
- Local community college and educational opportunities.
- System-wide collaborative approach to the treatment of Mentally Ill.

Come join our progressive nursing staff and enjoy the benefits of living in a serene country setting. For information regarding Nursing and Clinical career opportunities at Coalinga State Hospital, contact Maureen Mahoney at (559) 935-4306.



*More construction pictures from the site!*

## Coalinga State Hospital

148 West Elm Avenue  
Coalinga, CA 93210  
**(559) 935-4305 Personnel**  
**(559) 935-4313 Fax**

The Department of Mental Health is  
an equal opportunity employer.